

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A support assembly for supporting a S cam, the S cam being an intermediary device between a brake actuator and a set of wheel brakes and is generally an elongate metal shank having an S-head at a first end of the shank and a set of splines at the second end of the shank, the S-head having at least one arm for engaging a respective brake shoe, whereby rotation of the S cam in a first direction causes the at least one arm of the S-head to act on the brake shoe to frictionally engage the respective brake shoe with a brake drum, the support assembly comprising:

a single elongate bushing rotationally supporting and substantially coextensive along the length of the S cam shank, the bushing extending from proximate the S-head to proximate the splines; and

a bushing holder, wherein the single elongate bushing is substantially enclosed within the bushing holder.

2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein the bushing is formed of a plastic material.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 5, wherein an outside diameter of the bushing is sized to form a tight fit with an inside diameter of the bushing holder.
7. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein a bushing holder has at least one grease fitting disposed in a bore defined through a bushing holder body for transporting lubricant to the inside margin of the bushing holder.
8. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 7, wherein the grease fitting intersects a circumferential groove defined in the bushing holder inside margin.
9. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 8, wherein the circumferential groove intersects at least one spiral groove defined in the bushing holder inside margin.
10. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 9, wherein the circumferential groove and the at least one spiral groove defined in the bushing holder inside diameter form a path for lubricating the interface defined between the bushing and the bushing holder.

11. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein the bushing is substantially sealed within a bushing holder by a first and second seal member disposed at first and second ends of the bushing respectively, each of the seal members forming a sealing interface with the bushing holder and the S cam shank.

12. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein a S cam shank outside margin is machined and has a certain outside diameter.

13. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 12, wherein the S cam shank outside margin is spaced apart from an inside margin of the bushing.

14. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 12, wherein the S cam shank outside margin is spaced apart from an inside margin of the bushing by an amount between .001 and .010 inches.

15. (Currently Amended) A support assembly for supporting a S cam, the S cam having a generally elongate metal rod shank having an S-head at one end of the shank and a set of splines at the other end of the shank, the support assembly comprising:

a single elongate bushing rotationally supporting and substantially coextensive along the length of the S cam shank, the bushing extending from proximate the S-head to proximate the splines; and

a bushing holder, the bushing being substantially enclosed within the bushing holder.

16.-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 15, wherein the bushing is formed of a plastic material.

19. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 15, wherein an outside diameter of the bushing is sized to form a tight fit with an inside diameter of the bushing holder.

20. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 15, wherein the bushing holder has at least one grease fitting disposed in a bore defined through a bushing holder body for transporting lubricant to an inside margin of the bushing holder.

21. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 20, wherein the grease fitting intersects a circumferential groove defined in the bushing holder inside margin.

22. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 21, wherein the circumferential groove intersects at least one spiral groove defined in the bushing holder inside margin.

23. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 22, wherein the circumferential groove and the at least one spiral groove defined in the bushing holder inside diameter form a path for lubricating the interface defined between the bushing and the bushing holder.

24. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 15, wherein the bushing is substantially sealed within a bushing holder by first and second seal members disposed at first and second ends of the bushing respectively, each of the seal members forming a sealing interface with the bushing holder and the s cam shank.

25. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 15, wherein a S cam shank outside margin is machined and has a certain outside diameter.

26. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 25, wherein the S cam shank outside margin is spaced apart from an inside margin of the bushing.

27. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 26, wherein the S cam shank outside margin is spaced apart from an inside margin of the bushing by an amount between .001 and .010 inches.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of supporting a S cam, the S cam being an intermediary device between a brake actuator and a set of wheel brakes and having a generally elongate metal shank having an S-head at one end and a set of splines at the other end, the S-head having at least one arm for engaging a respective brake shoe, whereby rotation of the S cam in a first direction causes the at least one arm of the S-head to act on the respective brake shoe to frictionally engage the brake shoe with a brake drum, the method comprising:

rotationally supporting the S cam shank in a single elongate bushing, such that the bushing is substantially coextensive with the S cam shank and extends from proximate the S-head to proximate the splines.; and

providing a bushing holder and substantially enclosing the bushing within the bushing holder.

29.-30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, including forming the bushing of a plastic material.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) The method of claim 31, including sizing an outside diameter of the bushing to form a tight fit with an inside diameter of the bushing holder.

34. (Original) The method of claim 28, including disposing at least one grease fitting in a bore defined through a bushing holder body for transporting lubricant to the inside diameter of the bushing holder.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, defining a circumferential groove in a bushing holder body inside margin and intersecting the grease fitting with the groove.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, including forming at least one spiral groove in the bushing holder body inside margin in an intersecting relationship with the circumferential groove.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, including forming a path for lubricating the interface defined between the bushing and the bushing holder body inside margin by means of the circumferential groove and the at least one spiral groove defined in the ~~inside margin of the bushing holder~~ bushing holder body inside margin.

38. (Original) The method of claim 28, including substantially sealing the bushing within a bushing holder by first and second seal members disposed at first and second ends of the bushing respectively.

39. (Original) The method of claim 28, including forming a sealing interface with the bushing holder and the S cam shank.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, including machining a S cam shank outside margin to define a certain outside diameter.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, including spacing the S cam shank outside margin apart from an inside margin of the bushing.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, including spacing the S cam shank outside margin apart from the inside margin of the bushing by an amount between .001 and .010 inches.

Please add new claims 43-45 as follows:

43. (New) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein the bushing is unitary.

44. (New) The support assembly of claim 15, wherein the bushing is unitary.

45. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising forming the bushing to be unitary.